side to, *inter-alia*, do its best to simplify the visa application procedure for the tour groups organized by designated Chinese travel agencies.

Export of Dual Use Item to Iraq

5048. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Indian companies are found exporting dual-use items to Iraq despite U.N. sanctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any official communication in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Indian companies exporting to Iraq have done so after securing the approval of the UN Sanctions Committee as prescribed by the UN Security Council.

Some companies had exported dual use items in violation of Indian export control regulations, which has been investigated and a prosecution complaint has been filed in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM), Patiala House, New Delhi on 20-2-2003. Two persons were arrested during investigation and another two were sent to judicial custody by ACMM court.

IT Professionals arrested in Netherland

5049. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI :
SHRI SURENDRA LATH :
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the arrest of Indian Information Technology professionals in Netherland;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Netherland;

(c) if so, the response and reply of the Government of Netherland thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to protect interest of the IT professionals in Netherland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) 11 Indian Information Technology professionals working for an Indian firm, iFlex Solutions Pvt. Ltd., were detained by the Dutch Police for several hours on March 26, 2003, on charges of visa fraud. On the intervention of the Indian Embassy, all 11 were released and returned to India.

(c) The Government of the Netherlands has responded positively to the demarches made in this regard by the Government of India.

(d) The Government of India has conveyed to the Government of the Netherlands the seriousness with which it views such incidents.

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction work in Iraq

5050. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether following the cessation of the Iraq war, India has braced up for a new role for rehabilitation, relief and reconstruction programme in Iraq.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sounded the like-minded foreign governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the feedback received from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (d) In response to the UN emergency appeal for humanitarian assistance to Iraq, India has already announced a contribution of $20 million in cash and kind including 50,000 MT of wheat. In view of India's traditional friendship with the Iraqi people, India is keen to participate in the post war reconstruction of Iraq. Indian companies have wide experience of working in Iraq in the 1970s and 1980s in areas such as civil construction, infrastructural projects, industrial rehabilitation and deployment of expert manpower. Different aspects of the situation in Iraq such a humanitarian relief, easing or lifting of sanctions, and a UN role in facilitating post war political arrangements and reconstruction are currently under discussion among members of UN. India is engaged in these consultations.